

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIX, No. 6, June, 1921

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

*The Semi-Centennial of the State Society.*—The fiftieth annual session of the Medical Society of the State of California, held in San Diego on May 10-12, was notable in many respects. . . .

The House of Delegates decided to extend the time of the annual session to four days, and the next meeting in May, 1922, was set for the Yosemite. With better than one in five of the membership in attendance this year, at San Diego, and with a growing recognition on the part of everyone of the value and pleasure of these conventions, a record-breaking attendance can be confidently predicted for next year. . . .

*League Luncheon at Coronado.*—The San Diego Union of May 12, in a lengthy article, describes the League Luncheon as the outstanding feature of the Fiftieth Annual Convention of the State Medical Society. "More than one thousand medical men and their wives packed the dining room of the Hotel Del Coronado at the meeting of the League for the Conservation of Public Health, and noted speakers vigorously attacked 'quackery' in all its forms, and urged continuous progressive effort on the part of the medical profession to protect the sick and infirm from imposition by incompetent pretentious cultists."

Dr. Smith reviewed the successful work of the League against Social Health Insurance in the 1918 campaign, the legislative battles of 1919, the State-wide campaign of 1920, and the recent contests at Sacramento, during which the League decisively defeated the formidable forces arrayed against modern medicine. As Dr. Smith's address will be published in an early issue of the Journal, further comment is unnecessary at this time. . . .

*Commercial Vitamin Preparations.*—It seems necessary to call attention to the considerable number of commercial preparations of vitamins now (in this year 1921) being advertised, and with reference to which doctors are being extensively circularized. Vitamins are necessary articles of diet. Deprivation of vitamins leads to disturbed physiology and, if continued, to definite disease. At least three types of vitamins are recognized and few, if any, single preparations or foods contain all of them. But we must not forget that vitamins are unstable, illy-defined chemical substances of still doubtful nature and properties, and that their isolation is attended with difficulty, and their standardization is thus far unsatisfactory, to say the least. Moreover, under ordinary conditions an abundant supply of vitamins is secured from a usual dietary, and no specific addition is necessary. Apply all of these facts to the widely-advertised preparations now being exploited, and then see if you are helping the cause of science or the interests of your patient by prescribing indiscriminately substances which are lauded by commercial interests. . . .

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

*From an Article on "Medical Aspects of Visceroptosis," by George E. Ebright, M.D., San Francisco.*—Viscerop-

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By F. N. SCATENA, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

### Board Proceedings

A regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners will be held at the Native Sons Hall, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco, from June 10th to 13th, 1946.

At this meeting, hearings will be held, petitions for modification of terms of probation will be considered, as well as petitions for restoration of revoked certificates.

Written examinations for all classes of candidates licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners will be held starting Tuesday, June 11th, and continuing through Thursday, June 13th.

Pending in the Superior Court in San Francisco, are the applications of three doctors for writs of mandate to compel the State Board of Medical Examiners to issue licenses permitting them to practice in California. The three doctors are graduates of the Chicago Medical School, said school not being on the list of those approved by the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California as qualifying their graduates for licensure in this state.

Recently the Board of Medical Examiners has had an increase in the number of applications being filed by graduates of schools not approved by the Board. Many of the applicants have served with satisfaction in one of the branches of the Armed Forces. It is to be noted that the Armed Forces have made no distinction regarding the school of graduation in accepting Medical Officers in the Armed Forces, and that there are graduates of schools not approved by the American Medical Association that have been accepted. The Board of Medical Examiners has considered these applicants, but can find no reason to accept them as the California Law definitely states that all applicants must be graduates of a school approved by the Board. Incidentally, it should also be noted that hospitals in California training internes should not accept graduates from schools not approved by the California Board of Medical Examiners. (See Section 2147.5 of the Business and Professions Code.)

### News

"High Court Reverses Ruling On Doctor—The Fourth District Court of Appeals late yesterday set aside a writ of mandate ordering the State Board of Medical Examiners to dismiss license revocation proceedings against Dr. G. Carl H. McPheeters, Fresno physician and surgeon, and granted the State's motion for a change of venue for further hearing to the Sacramento County Superior Court. . . . The decision reversed the judgment of Superior Judge Dan F. Conway who September 8th issued a writ of mandate which directed the State Board to dismiss the proceedings against the Fresno doctor for asserted lack of prosecution. . . . While oral arguments were heard on the State's motion for a change of venue and Dr. McPheeter's petition for a writ and written briefs later submitted to Judge Conway, the upper court found there is no record to indicate any default was taken or that evidence was taken in support of allegations to the petition. . . . The action of the appellate court places Dr.

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.



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men of today are as well endowed mentally and physically as their predecessors, but the capacity of the human brain has not changed. Doctors are not today equal to seeing several times as many patients, considering twice as many details on each case, and covering at least five times as much literature as their fathers did in the same number of hours. They become too jaded to cerebrate. Mechanical routinism is the natural outcome. . . .

The Sunflower Ordnance Works, at De Soto, Kansas, received this missive: "Sirs: I hear you-all are looking to sell government surplus funds. I calculate I could use some of them funds. Please send information for bidding on same."—*This Week Magazine*.

### BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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McPheeter's petition for a writ of mandate in the same position it was in Judge Conway's court prior to his decision, and makes the State's motion to strike out the petition a matter subject for further proceedings. . . . In support of a writ, the Fresno doctor's counsel said Dr. McPheeters appeared in February, June and October, 1944, and February, 1945, before the State Board in Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco without evidence being presented on three charges of performing illegal operations." (Fresno, California, *Bee*, April 17, 1946.)

"Physiotherapist Held on Code Act Charge—Charged with violating the professional standards act, Gordon C. Heap, a physiotherapist of 1335 Waterman Avenue, was

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arrested yesterday. . . . Mr. Heap is accused of offering to give asserted medical treatments, whereas he does not hold a certificate as a physician. The charge was sworn to by Maynard Youngs, investigator for the State Board of Medical Examiners. . . . Mr. Heap was released on his own recognizance pending a hearing." (San Bernardino, California, *Sun*, April 10, 1946.)

"Three Arraigned After 'Cosmic Ray' Arrests—Three men, arrested on suspicion of violating the State Medical Practices Act for operating open air 'Cosmic Ray' centers near Compton, were to be arraigned at 10 a.m. today, in the Huntington Park Justice Court before Judge Stanley Moffatt. . . . Two squads of 20 officers each raided both centers yesterday at a field on 223rd St., two miles south of Alameda St., and another in a gully along Atlantic Blvd., between North Long Beach and Lynwood. . . . Arrested on a warrant issued by Judge Moffatt were Paul and Charles Beebe, charged with eight violations involving the State Medical Practices Act, Pure Food and Drug Act, having no permit to sell foodstuffs, and failing to maintain rest-room facilities; and Ralph C. Hylton, accused on five counts involving the Medical and Food and Drug Acts and false advertising. . . . Sandwiches, wheat, water, ice operators said to have been treated by cosmic rays were seized as evidence along with a 'cosmic ray' machine. More than 100 persons, most of them elderly, were cluttered around the Beebe brothers' trailers taking the 'treatments.'" (Hollywood, California, *Citizen-News*, April 13, 1946.)

## BOOKS RECEIVED

(Continued from Page 12)

**Agnosia, Apraxia, Aphasia—Their Value in Cerebral Localization.** By J. M. Nielsen, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University of Southern California; Senior Attending Physician in Neurology and Assistant in Neuropathology, Los Angeles County Hospital, Los Angeles, California. Cloth. Second edition completely revised. Price, \$5.00. Pp. 292, with 59 illustrations. New York, London: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 1946.

**Cornell Conferences on Therapy.** Volume One. Edited by Harry Gold, M.D., Managing Editor; David P. Barr, M.D., Eugene F. DuBois, M.D.; McKeen Cattell, M.D., and Charles H. Wheeler, M.D. Cloth. Price, \$3.25. Pp. 322. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1946.

**Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis.** By Samuel A. Levinson, M.S., M.D., Ph.D., Director of Laboratories, Research and Educational Hospitals, Chicago, Illinois; Professor of Pathology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, and Robert P. MacFate, Ch.E., M.S., Ph.D., Assistant Director of Laboratories, Research and Educational Hospitals, Chicago, Illinois; Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Illinois College of Medicine. Cloth. 3d edition, thoroughly revised. Pp. 971, illustrated with 192 engravings and 15 plates, 7 in color. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1946.

**Modern Management in Clinical Medicine.** By F. Kenneth Albrecht, M.D., S.A. Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service; Kansas State Tuberculosis Consultant; formerly Clinical Director, U. S. Marine Hospital, Baltimore, Md. Cloth. Price, \$10.00. Pp. 1238, illustrated. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1946.

**Diseases of the Adrenals.** By Louis J. Soffer, M.D., Adjunct Attending Physician, the Mount Sinai Hospital,

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